

THE FIRE LADDIES.

GETTING TO BE MORE EXPERT IN ANSWERING FIRE ALARMS.

Gotham's Firemen Have Got Their Business Down to a Science—Time It Takes a Fireman to Dress—The Horse's Harness.

Every day the brave fire laddies of Gotham are getting to be more expert in swiftly answering fire alarms, and are on the lookout for improvements that will cut down even shorter the few seconds at present occupied in hitching up horses and starting the engines of trucks rattling on their way to the fire. The sliding pole was an improvement on the old-fashioned pole-mill run down the stairs that saved nearly a minute of preparation. Quick dressing is one of the features of fire laddie activity nowadays that fills every layman with amazement. The laddies have got the business down to such a science that they literally jump into their clothes. Every fireman goes to bed with his fire shirt on. His trousers are always kept tucked into the legs of his heavy rubber boots, and when he retires he retires simply late the trousers slide off him and down over the boot leg and then steps out of the boots. When he wants to dress he steps back into the boots again, yanks the trousers up around his waist, fastens them with a spring buckle and makes dashes for the sliding pole quick as a wink, completely dressed.

THE AVERAGE TIME.

"Twelve seconds is the average time," takes a fireman to dress when an alarm starts him out of bed at night," says Smith said, "and I'll bet \$100 to \$1,000 many times as anybody wants to take the odds that we have men here who can dress in six seconds every time they want to."

The essential thing in putting fires out in a hurry is to get the machinery there, as well as the men who handle it. And it is in this essential thing about the science of handling fires that our fire commissioners think the department comes as near perfection as it is possible for human ingenuity to reach. Improvement after improvement has been made, until now the loss of time in hitching has been reduced apparently absolutely to the minimum. There are only two things about it that aren't automatic. These are the movement of the horses from the stalls to their places beside the engine shaft, and the snapping of their collars over their necks by the watchman. And both these are done in such a perfect way that they are as good as automatic anyhow. Automatic machinery does all of the rest of the work quick enough to make your head swim if you try to time the details. The instant the operator at the fire headquarters opens the circuit to send an alarm, the current drops a metal ball right beside the gong. The ball strikes, presses down a bar of brass, and pulls a steel wire that automatically unlatches the springs at the sides of the stalls that hold the halters of the horses. The hammer of the gong, simultaneously with the first alarm stroke, stops the little "record" clock that is perched on a shelf beside the gong, and thus automatically keeps a record of the time consumed in going to a fire, putting it out and returning. By comparing the little clock with the big clock on the wall that is going all the time, the captain of the company can tell at a glance just how long it took to do any given piece of work.

THE HORSE'S HARNESS.

The harness is always suspended over the shaft by an automatic iron "hanger." It is held in position there by springs. When the driver grabs the reins the tension loosens the springs, the harnesses drop down upon the horses, the watchman snaps the collars around the horse's necks, and automatic weights attached to little pulleys in the ceiling carry the framework of the "hanger" up over head out of the way. Improvements are steadily being made in the collars that the fire horses wear. They are made in two sections, fastened with a hinge at the top, and snap together at the bottom with an automatic steel spring lock. Collars made of cast iron have recently been introduced in some of the engine houses. They are sixteen pounds lighter than the leather collars, which weigh thirty-six pounds each, and they are considered more durable and serviceable. These collars can be fastened around the horse's necks in a fraction of a second.

Great as is the efficiency of the apparatus for extinguishing fires, still further improvements are contemplated. Commissioner Purroy is trying to have an electric lantern perfected that will enable the firemen to see into buildings through thick smoke, and that won't go out and leave them in darkness, as the present oil lanterns do. The commissioner's brother wants to rig up a double stage arrangement in every engine house, that will enable two engines to be kept in each house and thus double the capacity of the department to fight fires. When one engine has gone to a fire, the other, by the proposed plan, can be hoisted out of the cellar and be kept in instant readiness to answer a call for reinforcements.—New York Sun.

Bringing Up Orphans.

Twelve years close observation and thorough investigation have revealed to the fact that those who adopt and bring up orphans, actuated by no motive but love, are always sure to prosper. There has never been a single exception; in fact, there can be no exception, for it is not a rule, but a fixed principle, and therefore can not fail.—Henry Norman, Lynn Union.

He Didn't Insist.

New cashier—I should like to have an agreement with you to the effect that I shall have a week's notice in case I do suit.

Bank president—That is easily fixed. You will agree to give us a week's notice before leaving.

New cashier (thoughtfully)—Well, let it go.—Omaha World.

Private Letter Expressage.

The system of private letter expressage is constantly assuming greater proportions in Berlin. In addition to the two companies—the Hansa and the Omnibus and Parcel Share company—already existing, a third one—the Lloyd—is soon to go into operation.—Chicago Herald.

The Boston Transcript shows great sagacity as a prophet when it predicts that "the Saturday afternoon holiday movement will never strike a daily newspaper office."

Dr. O. W. Holmes is mentioned in The Critic as "the young old gentleman."

The order of Foresters has a membership of 647,977 in this country.

SPORT OF CATCHING CRABS.

Different Plans Followed by Fishermen.

"Paper shells" and "Buckrams."

"Do all fishermen follow the same plan?" asked the reporter.

"No; some bait for them, and in Connecticut fishermen spear for them in shallow water with a three-tined fork lashed to a pole. Thousands of crabs are caught every day in the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers and their creeks with nothing but a scoop net. Fishermen pole their boat along with these nets and scrape up the crabs from the sandy bed of the river at the same time. This kind of crabbing, however, takes a scant fisherman and a strong one. Then there are market crabbers, who use a set line by track, baited with meat. They anchor a line nearly 1,500 feet long in a tideway, from which hang several hundred baits. Then starting with the tide they lift the line over the boat and float slowly down its length, gathering in the crabs as they proceed, which they throw into a barrel. When the crab is taken from the line the bait is again thrown over and sinks, so that when the fisherman has traversed the length of his trawl he is ready to row back and float down again as before, which he repeats as many times as possible on that tide. To fill a barrel by this method is an easy thing in a good season."

"I have seen men crabbing, though, from the shore, it seemed to me."

"That is mud flat crabbing, and lacks every essential to sport. Besides, it is disagreeable. A man must wade in soft, slimy mud up to his knees. Every step he takes he must prod into each of his recent footprints with a pair of wooden tongs. When he feels a crab he pulls it out and drops it into a bag or basket. Trolling is more sport than flat crabbing. A reel line is baited and the crab is played in to shallow water, where it is scooped up in a net. There is considerable sport in trolling for crabs, but as a rule it is not very successful. For excitement another plan is to work in and out among the spiles of a bridge and scoop up the 'doubles,' or males and females that cling to the moss as the tide goes out. By this plan you get an even number of 'holders' and 'fryers,' as the upper crab is always rather a 'soft shell,' a 'paper shell' or a 'buckram.'"

"What do you mean by a 'paper shell' and a 'buckram'?"

"Once a month in the summer the crab discards his armor. He feels he is growing too large to still wear the same coat and sets about getting a new and a larger one, after making for himself an elastic set of under-clothing, which covers him from his finger tips, so to speak, up to and over his eyeballs. Meanwhile he assumes a bilious hue, and in this state proves selective bait for the angler in quest of weakfish or bass. It is not the flavor that renders him good for bait, but it is this same tough suit of underclothing. The soft or hard crab will not hang to a hook. When he puts on this undersuit he is known as a 'paper shell.' It takes about two days to grow this inner skin and then the crab becomes a 'buckram.' In another day he pulls out the bolt from the rear of his shell, and firmly gripping a piece of grass or seaweed, backs entirely out of his shell. Seemingly it is a painful process, and often while the 'shedder' is taking off his five pairs of trousers, as it were, he will be encouraged and assisted by sympathizing friends. In this state he is looked upon as an agreeable accompaniment to a slice of nicely-browned toast, if rolled in egg or cracker crumbs, and fried in seething hot butter or olive oil. If he remains twenty-four hours in the water after crawling from his too contracted shell his skin absorbs enough lime to give it a stiffness like that of writing paper. Then he is known as 'paper shell,' and in another day his skin becomes still more tough and he becomes a 'buckram' or a 'buckler.'—N. Y. Mail and Express.

A Joke on the Parson.

Thomas K. Beecher used to visit his hermit brother occasionally; he was much concerned over James' decision to hold himself aloof from the world, and added to the ambition to try to tempt James back to the pulpit again; Thomas K. found other pleasing labors; nowhere in all the world did the fish bite better or fight more gallantly; nowhere is there a hunting superior in all the Catskills. It was only the Hardenberg native that the Elmiran clergyman did not note on. Once he let the Beecher in him ooze out at his point and a letter was printed by a New York city journal making fun of James' neighbors. Not long after he visited the Beecher lake hermitage. By some mischance a copy of that New York paper, Thomas K.'s letter and all, got into the neighborhood; the natives revealed it, and Thomas K. became thereafter a marked man. It was his intention to stay but one day and night on this last visit, and he had ventured up into the backwoods without baggage. The clothes he wore were all he brought. It was summer, and when the Rev. Thomas K. retired for the night he tossed his clothes across the window sill. The natives had learned of his visit. When he woke up next morning he was minus coat, trousers and vest. There was but one thing to do—to borrow attire from his brother. It wasn't a fashionable suit that he was obliged to don. The cut wasn't modern and the fit was woefully startling. Three different kinds of cloth, three different colors of cloth, were in the make-up, and each article of the suit was considerably the worse for wear, while the trousers were radiant in big broad patches fore and aft.—Halston in New York Times.

Jewels in the Treasury Vault.

There are comparatively few jewels stored in the treasury vaults at Washington, and how these jewels came there no one can tell. Among the valuables is an old sword with jeweled hilt and golden chain. No one can tell to whom it belonged, but it is a relic of the revolution, and was probably captured and given to the government, but locked up with the treasures instead of being sent to the museum. There are two or three small bottles filled with precious stones, but these are sealed up and no one knows their value. They may be "stage jewels" for all the keepers know. In the box where these trinkets are kept is a curious old bottle containing attar of roses. It is variously claimed to be worth from \$100 to \$100,000. Often when the box is struck and jarred or moved the sweet odor of the attar of roses permeates the vaults and lingers about the cold corridors for days. These, together with a few little golden trinkets, make up the jewels of the treasury.—Chicago Herald.

Wealthy Gypsies in Ohio.

The Dayton, O., gypsies are very wealthy, a tribe of about fifty or seventy-five owning three or four magnificent farms, all well stocked and equipped with fine buildings. It is estimated that in all they are worth several millions of property, cash, mortgages, bonds and other securities. They cultivate their land during the summer.—Chicago Times.

Sprinkling Streets With Petroleum.

The people of Ventura, Cal., are going to try a novel experiment in sprinkling the streets with crude petroleum instead of water. It is thought that oil, after two or three sprinkles, will lay the dust for months.—Pioneer Press.

The great mass of mankind can only gaze and wonder; if they attempt to think they grow listless and soon tire out.—Uncle Ezek.

General Advertisements.

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Offer for Sale.

IRON TANKS.

(Various Sizes.)

STEEL RAILS, FENCE WIRES,
ROOFING SLATES, CEMENT,
CROCKERY, ROCK SALT,

BAGS AND BAGGING.

Vienna Furniture,

And a Large Variety of other Goods too Numerous to Mention.

PACIFIC HARDWARE CO., L'D.

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HOLIDAY GOODS.

Meriden Silver Plated Ware. New designs in Chandeliers, Lamps and Lanterns.

POCKET CUTLERY. SHELF HARDWARE.

Agricultural Implements, a new Fire Proof Paint for Shingle and Metal Roofs, Carriage Paint for country use, no varnish required. Stoves, Tinware, Lubricating Oil, Kerosene Oil, and General Merchandise.

CHARLES HUSTACE.

109 and 111 King St., between Fort and Alakea.

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Consisting in part of

Family Flour, German, Oat Meal, Corn Meal, Cracked Wheat, Breakfast Gem, Dupee Ham and Bacon, Codfish, Lard, Smoked Beef, New Cheese, Eggs, Cal. Butter, Dates, Raisins, Mustard Sauce, Sea Foam Wafers, Salmon and Medium Bread, Apples, Humboldt Potatoes, Wheat, Corn, Bran. Also a full line of Cal. Cracker Co.'s Crackers and Cakes. All of which are offered at lowest rates. All orders receive careful attention and prompt delivery.

Both Telephone Nos. 119. P. O. Box No. 372.

The "Central" Cigar Stand.

Campbell's Block, Merchant Street.

F. HILDER, Proprietor

Bell Telephone 172. Mutual Telephone 375.

Gentlemen will find the "Central" always stocked with the choicest Havana and Domestic Cigars and Tobaccos. Fresh importations by every steamer.

The Finest Manila Cigars in the Market on Hand.

Island orders carefully attended to. Give me a call

GEORGE ENGELHARDT,

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Union Fire and Marine Insurance Company of San Francisco, Yuna Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, The New England Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston, D. M. Weston's Patent Centrifugal Machines.

The New York and Honolulu Packet Line, The Merchants' Line, Honolulu and San Francisco, Dr. Jayne & Son's Celebrated Medicine, Wilcox & Gibbs, Remington and Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine.

LAINE & CO.,

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It is the greatest Flesh former, Milk and Butter producer in use.

Oil Cake Meal shows about 27 per cent. of nutritive matter; this nearly 39 per cent. 100 lbs. of this meal is equal to 300 lbs. of oats, or 310 lbs. of corn, or to 267 lbs. of wheat bran. Also, our Univalved MIXED FEED, as well as our usual supply of the best kinds of

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Estimates given on all kinds of Brick, Iron, Stone and Wooden Buildings. Refers to the following prominent buildings erected by him, amongst others too numerous to mention, the King's Palace, Lunaflo Home, Opera House, Honolulu Library, Wilder, Mrs. Lack, Police and Awaian Buildings, Etc.

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Prescribed by Physicians Everywhere.

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Pure Stimulant

For the Sick, Invalids, Convalescing Patients, Aged People,

WEAK AND DEBILITATED WOMEN.

Awarded FIRST PRIZE GOLD MEDAL at World's Exposition, New Orleans, La., 1884.

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Always keep on hand a most elegant assortment of

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Ever brought to this market.

Clocks, Watches, Bracelets, Neck-

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Studs, Etc., Etc.

And ornaments of all kinds.

Elegant Solid Silver Tea Sets,

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Made to order.

Repairing of watches and jewelry carefully at-

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Particular attention is paid to orders and job work from the other Islands.

Hawaiian Hotel Carriage Co.

Carriages at all hours, day and night. Saddle horses, buggies, wagonettes and village carts with stylish and gentle horses to let.

Horses clipped with the Patent Lightning Clipping Machine.

FOR SALE.

A few good Horses, 2 Phaetons, Two Top Buggies, second-hand Harness and 2 Village Carts.

PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES.

Ring up Telephone Number 37, or Apply to

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A REWARD OF TEN DOLLARS will be given for certain papers of no value to any person but the owner, taken from Mr. C. B. Wilson's shoeing shop, Esplanade, on Friday, the 3d inst., to anyone delivering them at the HERALD office, and no questions asked.

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Cases Noodles,
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Cases Medium Bread,
Cases Cracked Wheat, 10 lb. bags,
Cases Corn Meal, 10 lb. bags,
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Elegant Solid Silver Tea Sets,

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